



**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223**

Freedom of Information Act & Privacy Act Program
Communications Center
245 Murray Lane, S.W., Building T-5
Washington, D.C. 20223

Date: April 10, 2019

MuckRock News
Sam Richards
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144

File Number: 20190562

Dear Requester:

This letter is intended to acknowledge the receipt of your recent Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received by the United States Secret Service (Secret Service) on March 22, 2019, for information pertaining to Secret Service expenditures paid to Donald Trump, Trump Hotels, or the Trump Organization for stays at Trump hotels, including date and duration of stay, amount billed to USSS and any emails or internal documents related to price negotiations.

We have determined that your request is too broad in scope. Records must be described, in reasonably sufficient detail, to enable Secret Service employees who are familiar with the subject area to locate records without placing an unreasonable burden upon the agency.

Pursuant to the FOIA regulations, 6 C.F.R., Part 5, Subpart A § 5.3(b), you are required to describe the records you are seeking with as much information as possible to ensure that our search can locate them with a reasonable amount of effort. Please provide specific dates of trips or a date range for the records you are seeking. As a general rule, the more specific you are about the records or type of records that you want, the more likely our agency will be able to locate those records in response to your request.

The FOIA does not require an agency to either create new records, answer questions posed by requesters, or attempt to interpret a request that does not identify specific records. Agencies are required to provide access to reasonably described, non-exempt records.

As you have failed to reasonably describe the records you are seeking, your request is not a “perfected” request, and we are unable to initiate a search for responsive records. To assist you, please click the link below to access the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations [6 CFR, Chapter I, Part 5, Subpart A] implementing certain provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1986, relating to the proper form for making a FOIA request.

DHS FOIA Regulations: http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/FOIA_FedReg_Note.pdf

Please be advised, this is not a denial of your request. Please resubmit your request containing a reasonable description of the records you are seeking. Upon receipt of the required information, you will be advised of the status of your request. Failure to respond, within thirty (30) days from the date of this letter, will result in the administrative closure of your file.

Your request has been assigned FOIA File No. 20190562. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please contact this office at (202) 406-6370. Please refer to the file number indicated above in all correspondence with this office.

Thank you,

Freedom of Information Act & Privacy Act Program
United States Secret Service
245 Murray Lane, SW, Building T-5
Washington, DC 20223
Phone: (202) 406-6370
Fax: (202) 406-5586
Email: FOIA@USSS.DHS.GOV